

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Office of Fire and Aviation  
3833 South Development Avenue  
Boise, Idaho 83705

April 24, 2003

In Reply Refer To:  
9210 (FA-320) P

EMS Transmission 04/25/03  
Instruction Memorandum No. OF&A 2003-025  
Expires: 09/30/04

To: State Directors

From: Director, Office of Fire and Aviation

Subject: Drip Torch Fuel Transportation and Dispensing Direction

**Program Area:** Fire Management/Prescribed Fire Operations

**Purpose:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) provides direction for drip torch fuel transportation and dispensing in order to bring Bureau of Land Management (BLM) equipment and practices into compliance with applicable regulations and nationally recognized standards. It also provides direction on procurement of new equipment.

**Policy/Action:** Drip torch fuel transportation and dispensing will be conducted in accordance with direction provided in Attachments 1 – 6.

**Time Frame:** This IM effective upon receipt.

**Budget Impact:** Budget impact will vary depending on the age and condition of the equipment requiring corrective action.

**Background:** IM No. OF&A 2002-022, May 28, 2002, accepted the Hazard Assessment and Proposed Resolution for Combination Gelled-Fuel Batch Mixer/Terratorch and Drip Fuel Transportation (PSRG) report and provided interim guidance for drip torch fuel transportation and dispensing.

A follow-up technical evaluation of drip torch fuel transportation and dispensing was conducted at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) on January 30-31, 2002. The evaluation was conducted by an industry safety consultant who serves as a member on the National Fire

Protection Association (NFPA) Technical Committee responsible for NFPA Standard 385, Tank Vehicles for Flammable and Combustible Liquids. Corrective actions (Attachments 1 – 6) were developed to be implemented immediately.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** No Manual/Handbook sections are affected.

**Coordination:** Corrective actions in Attachments 1 – 6 were developed by personnel from the BLM Compliance Assessment – Safety, Health, and Environment (CASHE) Program Manager; engineers from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service Missoula Technology and Development Center; and the contracted safety consultant. Input and information for the corrective actions was supplied by technical and operational specialists representing the BLM Office of Fire and Aviation (Fire Operations and Planning and Resources), and the Forest Service.

**Contact:** If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, please contact Rick Jensen at (208) 387-5710.

**Union:** All offices with a union are required to make notification of this action to the union representatives.

Signed by:  
Timothy M. Murphy  
Acting Director  
Office of Fire and Aviation

Authenticated by:  
Pat Lewis  
Supervisory Mgmt. Asst.  
Office Services

**6 Attachments:**

- Attachment 1 – Tank Mounted on Truck Option (5 pages)
- Attachment 2 – Tank Mounted on Trailer Option (4 pages)
- Attachment 3 – Tank – Gravity Dispensing Option (1 page)
- Attachment 4 – 55-Gallon Drum(s) Option (4 pages)
- Attachment 5 – Jerrican-Style Safety Can Option in Accordance with DOT's Material of Trade Exemption (2 pages)
- Attachment 6 – Drip Torches in Accordance with DOT's Materials of Trade Exemption (2 pages)

**Distribution:**

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